

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05915 262333Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05

AID-05 PC-01 /079 W

-----078703 262336Z /20

P R 262250Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1831

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 5915

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION PARTIES DEMAND NEW ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY. IN SEPARATE DECLARATIONS JULY 25, VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO'S MNR-PRA ALLIANCE, HERNAN SILES ZUAZO'S UDP, AND THE SMALL BUT VOCAL MARCELO SANTA CRUZ WING OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY CAME OUT STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF A RAPID RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT VIA GENERAL ELECTIONS. THE MNR-PRA ALLIANCE DEMANDED ELECTIONS WITHIN ONE YEAR, WHILE THE SILES AND QUIROGA GROUPS PRESSED FOR A DATE BEFORE JANUARY. RENE BERNAL'S PDC HAS STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE PEREDA GOVERNMENT, BUT HAS NOT YET SET A DEADLINE FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. MEANTIME, PRESIDENT PEREDA ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD CREATE A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY THE CONSTITUTIONALIZATION QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ITS LENGTHY PRESS COMMUNIQUE, THE MNR-PRA ALLIANCE CHARACTERIZES THE PEREDA GOVERNMENT AS AN AFFRONT TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 05915 262333Z

POPULAR WILL AND AS TOTALLY LACKING IN POLITICAL SUPPORT. IT DESCRIBES PEREDA'S ADMINISTRATION AS A CONTINUATION OF THE "MILITARY-BUSINESS" COMPLEX SET UP BY BANZER, AND FORESEES GRAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, BOLIVIA'S ECONOMY, AND ITS IMAGE ABROAD. APPEALING DIRECTLY TO THE ARMED FORCES, IT POSITS TWO ALTERNATIVES: ELECTIONS OR SOCIAL UPHEAVAL. IN CONCLUSION, IT CALLS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS WITHIN ONE YEAR,

WITH NO OFFICIAL CANDIDATE, AND WITH THE ARMED FORCES AS GUARANTORS. IF THESE CONDITIONS ARE MET, THE MNR-PRA PROMISES ITS COOPERATION; IF NOT, IT WARNS IT WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES.

3. IN A STATEMENT READ AT A CLANDESTINE PRESS CONFERENCE BY MIR LEADER JAIME PAZ ZAMORA, THE UDP PLEDGED SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE IN FAVOR OF FREE AND UNBIASED ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION, THIS GOAL SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF DEMOCRACY AND PEACE, AND WITH AS LITTLE SOCIAL COST AS POSSIBLE." THE BRIEF COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDES WITH THE HOPE THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, SO THAT THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE WILL BE "FREE, RESPECTABLE AND UNITED" BY 1979. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AFTER THE COMMUNIQUE WAS READ, SILES ZUAZO SAID THAT THE UDP FEARED A CONTINUATION OF THE PEREDA GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVOKE BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL REPUDIATION. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER, HE SAID FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, DISTRESSED BY THE "IRREGULARITIES" OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT, MIGHT RESTRICT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND DOWNGRADE THEIR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PEREDA REGIME.

4. THE UDP POSITION WAS ECHOED BY THE EXTREME-LEFT MARCELO QUIROGA SANTA CRUZ FACTION OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY. IN A SEPARATE PRESS CONFERENCE, QUIROGA READ A STATEMENT WHICH DECLARED THE PEREDA GOVERNMENT "JURIDICALLY INVALID" AND CALLED FOR GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 05915 262333Z

ELECTIONS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. QUIROGA SAID THAT HIS PARTY HAD NOT GONE UNDERGROUND, BUT WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK OPENLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RESTORATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

5. IN A COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED ON JULY 23, RENE BERNAL'S PDC SEVERELY CRITICIZED THE PEREDA GOVERNMENT AND DEMANDED AN "IMMEDIATE" RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS. PDC LEADER BENJAMIN MIGUEL TOLD AN EMBOFF ON JULY 26 THAT HIS PARTY HAD SET NO DEADLINE, BUT EXPECTED GENERAL ELECTIONS "BEFORE MARCH".

6. IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO DEFUSE GROWING OPPOSITION CRITICISM OF HIS REGIME, PRESIDENT PEREDA ANNOUNCED ON JULY 25 THAT HE WOULD SOON NAME A HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION TO STUDY MEANS OF RETURNING TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. PEREDA DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER GENERAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED, BUT SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD EXAMINE THE STRUCTURE OF THE PARLIAMENT AND THE BASES FOR RECONVENING IT.
BOEKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAPAZ05915
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780307-0262
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780719/aaaaaqaw.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1106586c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1882788
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPPOSITION PARTIES DEMAND NEW ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1106586c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014